







WIC EBT Status Report



November 2008



Shaded projects are inactive.

WIC State Agency	Unique Pilot Features	Card Features	Prime Contractor	Scope of Pilot Project				Status of Implementation	Launch Date
				City/Cty	Clinics	Retailers	Clients		
Off-Line Smartcard Projects									
Wyoming 	Wyoming began development in 1995 and is the first state to operate statewide, beginning January 2002. Point of sale equipment stands beside existing retailer equipment in-lane.	Initially smartcard with integrated circuit chip contained both WIC & SNAP benefits. SNAP was dropped in 2007 when Program went to on-line technology.	WY contract with Stored Value Systems (SVS) for processing, networking and banking ended in 2008. WY now operates EBT host system.	Statewide	37	91	11,650	SNAP joined the Western States EBT Alliance to implement an on-line system. The State upgraded its WIC MIS in FY 2005. WY awarded a contract to Paul Jaeger & Assocs. to migrate NM EBT software for clinic & settlement processing. Work was completed in September 2008. WY is also participating in the Mountain Plains SAM consortium to develop a model MIS.	Went Statewide with WIC EBT in 2002 Converted to new EBT system October 2008.
New Mexico 	New Mexico partnered with Texas on smartcard design & other areas of mutual benefit. Is utilizing integrated software for grocer systems.	Hybrid Smartcard with integrated circuit chip & mag stripe will eventually contain both WIC and SNAP benefits.	The host system is operated by the State agency.	Statewide	108	230	64,000	New Mexico is coordinating with Texas on the development of an automated solution for capturing cash purchases of fruits and vegetables on the smartcard.	Pilot was launched July 2003. Implemented Statewide December 2007.
Texas 	Texas partnered with New Mexico on smartcard design and other areas of mutual benefit. Developed in-house public domain stand-beside software for grocer system but is now relying on commercial providers to support smaller grocer systems with WIC EBT functionality. Has deployed integrated software for grocer system in pilot and statewide.	Smartcard with integrated circuit chip & mag stripe will eventually allow access to both WIC and SNAP/TANF benefits. Texas may coordinate with Medicaid on card features.	The host system is operated by the State agency.	189 counties	661	1,650	575,000	TX plans to complete rollout statewide in April 2009. The State is coordinating with New Mexico on development of an automated solution for capturing cash purchases of fruits and vegetables on the smartcard and working to acquire new cards.	Pilot was launched June 1, 2004. Statewide implementation planned for Spring 2009.

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Nevada 	Nevada is using the WIC EBT system originally used in Wyoming. The WIC Inter-tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) State agency does not participate in EBT at this time.	Smartcard with integrated circuit chip.	Stored Value Systems (SVS) is supporting current smartcard operations. JP Morgan is developing a new on-line system for NV and the ITCN.	Reno, Sparks in Washoe County, and part of Las Vegas	22 with ITO	127	42,787	NV EBT system is operational in Reno/Sparks and in much of Las Vegas (Clark County). The EBT system with SVS will not support Nevada EBT beyond September 2009. NV will be converting to the JP Morgan on-line system.	Pilot was launched June 2, 2000 Will convert to new EBT system by September 2009.
<u>PARTNERS</u> 	Card was designed to deliver WIC food benefits and to carry health services information in partnership with a variety of health programs. New England PARTNERS multi-state project included NH, ME, VT, MA, RI, and CT.	Hybrid card contained both magnetic stripe and integrated circuit chip on a smartcard.	Hitachi America, Ltd. (HAL)	Planned: Phase 1: NH only (Stafford Cty) Phase 2: All States except VT.	16	70	7,700	NEP decided to terminate the project prior to pilot implementation due to concerns about state resources, and changes in project affecting costs and timeline.	Project ended prior to implementing pilot. New activity ceased as of 1/06.
Ohio 	Under the pilot, both WIC and FSP participants used same smartcard to purchase benefits with point of sale smartcard readers in lane for retailers.	Smartcard with integrated circuit chip contains both WIC & SNAP benefits.	J P Morgan (contract ended June 2005)	Dayton	5	43	11,000	Due to the high cost of EBT, Ohio converted back to paper when their contract ended in June 2005.	Pilot was launched October 16, 2000

On-Line Magstripe Projects

Michigan 	Michigan is implementing a system for WIC EBT using on-line technology.	Magnetic stripe card.	MI contracted with ACS in 2006 to deliver WIC, cash, and SNAP EBT services. Prior to ACS, JPMorgan provided support for WIC EBT.	Jackson, Barry/Eaton, Ingham, Calhoun, & Branch / Hillsdale / St. Joseph Counties	20	Approx. 135	Approx. 24,450	Statewide expansion of the Michigan EBT system will be completed by March 2009. Michigan is working with Meijers, Krogers, and Walmart on the development of integrated retailer systems using a standard specification.	Pilot began July 5, 2005; new ACS system began pilot in March 2007.
Kentucky 	Kentucky will continue the project begun in Washington to further test the use of on-line technology for WIC EBT. Project will include integrated retailer systems and evaluate the cost and impact on WIC EBT stakeholders.	Magnetic stripe card.	Kentucky is developing system in-house using their management information system contractor, CDP, as their EBT developer.	Warren and Barren Counties	2	25	1,600 families	Project began August 1, 2006. Kentucky is currently working with Kroger/IBM, Walmart, Houchens/DataCash on integrated software for grocer systems, including development of a standard specification document for use among WIC retailers.	System demonstration is scheduled for December 2008. Pilot is projected to begin in Summer 2009.

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Chickasaw Nation, OK 	Chickasaw Nation will implement an on-line WIC EBT system using a fee for service implementation approach. The recently implemented SPIRIT MIS model will be updated to support EBT functionality and the newly updated software will be made available to SPIRIT transfer State agencies.	Magnetic stripe card.	JP Morgan is the contractor. JPM will provide the system free of charge and operate the system on a cost per case month basis.	Pontotoc				Project began in the Summer of 2008. Chickasaw Nation met with Covansys and JPM in Kansas City in August 2008 to discuss whether certain functions will reside in the EBT system or MIS system. JPM is developing an interface to the Covansys system.	Will pilot 2 months (Oct-Nov 2009) and begin statewide implementation on January 1, 2010.
Washington 	Washington participated in FNS' on-line demonstration project to test the feasibility of delivering WIC benefits using existing retailer equipment with magnetic stripe card.	Magnetic stripe card.	ISS (subcontractors Maximus & SVS) under contract to FNS.	Pierce County (Tacoma)	1	3	300 families	Findings from the pilot were compiled in March 2006 (visit http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/EBT/WA-OnlineReport.htm for more information). State agency completed feasibility study in September 2007 examining future options for EBT.	Pilot launched June 2005; ended November 2005.
Related Project(s)									
National UPC Database	Legislation in 2004 required a national UPC database to be developed to support State agency operations. In December 2004, FNS held a one day session with State agency and industry stakeholders to examine a web-based database that would allow State agencies and food manufacturers to enter product information into the database. Feedback from the stakeholders was generally positive. A workgroup of State agencies, food retailers and food manufacturers was subsequently convened to assist in identifying and resolving critical issues associated with the database. The database system was developed in the fall of 2007 and is currently being pilot tested by a small number of State agencies.								
Standards Committee	In May 2007, the EBT workgroup of the ASC X9, Inc., completed the portion of the X9.93 message specifications that pertains to on-line WIC EBT systems and file formats used by both on-line and off-line systems. The changes will reduce the need for retail vendors and processors to rewrite software when State contracts change EBT processors. Retail claim file processing will enable transactions from multiple WIC vendor locations to be submitted for payment in a single file format. ASC X9 approval is pending.								
EBT Planning Grants	In FY 2007, FNS awarded an EBT planning grant to Virginia to conduct a feasibility study. In FY 2008, FNS awarded three additional EBT planning grants. These grants were awarded to Florida, Arkansas, and Wisconsin. Both Virginia and Arkansas also received funds to develop a data collection tool for EBT cost evaluation.								